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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A packet flow control apparatus performing flow control of packets each having variable length, includes: a buffer memory for temporarily accumulating arrived packets until a sending time of each packet; a counter updated based on a rate determined in accordance with a packet length calculated by a counter value of the counter and limited flow of packets; a sending time determining section for determining the sending time of each packet based on the counter value and a present time; and a sending order control section for managing a sending order of each packet accumulated in the buffer memory, and for sending a read instruction of each packet to the buffer memory, based on the sending time determined by the sending time determining section.